

REMARKS

I. Status

The Office Action indicates claims 1-29 and 31-126 to be pending in this Application, with the Office Action indicating claims 13, 14, 20, 21, 26-28, 34, 35, and 37-126 to be withdrawn from consideration. With this response, claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 15, and 31 are amended, and claim 9 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4, 7-12, 15-17, 19, 22-25, 29, 32, 33, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eggert (U.S. Patent No. 6,527,558) in view of Varelis (U.S. Patent No. 5,033,474).

Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 15-19, 22-25, 29, 31-33, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levine (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0064298) in view of Varelis and Siregar (Computers and Biomedical Research, 1998, Vol. 31, p. 323-347).

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levine in view of Varelis, Siregar, and Ivlev (Biomedical Engineering, 1995, Vol. 29, No. 6, p. 313-314).

Claim 1 is independent.

II. Amendment of Independent Claim 1

With this response, the Applicant amends independent claim 1. No new matter has been added.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail, for example, to disclose, teach, or suggest all aspects of claim 1, at least as amended herewith.

In view of at least the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

III. Dependent Claim Rejections

The Applicant does not believe it is necessary at this time to further address the rejections of the dependent claims as the Applicant believes that the foregoing places the independent claims in condition for allowance. The Applicant, however, reserves the right to further address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

(Continued on next page)

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

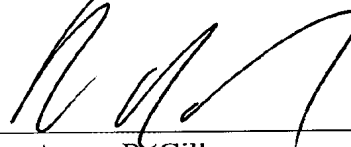
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4184.

Furthermore, in the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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